

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

2014-2018

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DIRECTORATE

JANUARY 2014

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CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND TO THE TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

1.1 Introduction:

The **Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998** puts in place the legislative framework to meet the needs of Travellers normally resident within the administrative area of each local authority within the lifetime of the Programme. The Act provides for the preparation and adoption of Traveller specific Accommodation Programmes and for provision for public participation in the process by way of a notification and consultation process. Cork County Council has produced three Traveller Accommodation Programmes to date in accordance with the 1998 Act.

The functional area of the current Plan is the administrative area of Cork County Council including the Town Councils of Clonakilty, Cobh, Fermoy, Kinsale, Macroom, Mallow, Middleton, Skibbereen and Youghal. It should be noted that the Town Councils will be abolished in June 2014 and the entire area will then be in the administrative area of Cork County Council.

In August 2013, The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government issued a Memorandum on the Preparation Adoption and Implementation of the Local Authority Traveller Accommodation Programmes for the period 2014 to 2018 which requires relevant Housing Authorities in consultation with Travellers to prepare and adopt by April 30th, 2014, Accommodation Programmes to meet the existing and projected needs of Travellers in their areas. Section 8 of the Act requires Authorities, before preparing a draft of an Accommodation Programme, to give notice in writing of their intention to do so. In line with this, Cork County Council advertised in a national newspaper seeking submissions from the public on Friday the 30th of August, 2013.

In preparation for this Programme spanning 2014 to 2018 a consultation process was undertaken. This included consultation with the three Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees (LTACCs) operational in South Cork, West Cork and North Cork.

An essential element of this Programme was to encourage input from external agencies and the general public. Therefore submissions were sought from interested parties and organisations involved in providing services to Travellers in County Cork (Appendix 1). Cork County Council received two submissions within the required timeframe.

The current Traveller Accommodation Programme expires on 31st December, 2013, and the new Programme will be considered in conjunction with the existing Traveller Accommodation Programme. This Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 to 2018 has been developed from the perspective that housing policy is linked to many areas of societal functioning. The Programme acknowledges that intrinsic linkages exist between accommodation and the broader issues of Traveller health, education, employment and social inclusion.

Due to current budgetary and financial constraints the funding available for housing capital programmes has declined considerably. On a national level funding allocations available for Traveller Specific Capital Projects throughout the country has decreased from €32 million in 2009 to €4 million in 2013. Therefore it is within this challenging environment that Cork County Council will endeavour to ensure that any capital funding available will be utilised in the most effective and efficient manner during the period 2014-2018. Cork County Council foresees linkages with external voluntary housing agencies and other stakeholders as being pivotal to achieving goals set out in this Programme. Voluntary Housing Agencies have experience in the provision and management of social housing and Cork County Council intends to intensify linkages with these agencies during the lifetime of this Programme and to encourage future developments through the Capital Assistance Scheme and Social Housing Leasing Initiative Supports where necessary.

Bearing in mind the significant financial challenges facing Local Government nationally, the high demand on Cork County Council's housing waiting lists, and the

reduced funding available in relation to Traveller specific accommodation, Cork County Council is committed to the success of this Traveller Accommodation Programme and will support and co-operate with the voluntary sector in meeting the accommodation needs of the Traveller Community.

CHAPTER 2

POLICY STATEMENT ON TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

- The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 is subject to review during its duration. Section 17 (1) and (2) of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 state that:

‘1 a. the relevant housing authority shall review an accommodation programme at least once in each three year period or at such time the Minister may by direction specify from time to time, and

b. may review an accommodation programme at any time during the period which the accommodation programme concerned relates.

A relevant housing authority may amend or replace an accommodation programme at any time or following a review under subsection (1)’

- It is Cork County Council’s policy to directly provide and assist the Voluntary Bodies in the provision of Traveller specific accommodation for the County’s indigenous Travelling Community where possible.
- Cork County Council operates active Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees whose membership consists of Traveller Representatives, Elected Members and County Council Officials. It is the policy of these committees to meet on a quarterly basis in accordance with best practice.
- Cork County Council strives to engage fully with the Inter-Agency processes and groups that are currently running within Cork County. The overall Interagency Group which is being chaired by An Garda Síochána in conjunction with Cork County Development Board have addressed many issues as priority tasks. Cork County Council is particularly cognisant of the actions set down in the Accommodation and Health Sub-Group.
- In circumstances where an emergency situation arises it is the policy of Cork County Council to refer families to local homeless services where possible. All cases of homelessness are considered on a case by case basis and referred to the appropriate agencies.

- All such emergency cases are considered on an individual basis and in line with the Regional Homeless Action Plan.
- **Applications for accommodation to Cork County Council will be considered under Council's Scheme of Letting Priorities. This Traveller Accommodation Programme provides a working framework for allocations to Traveller households for the next five years. To meet the accommodation needs of Travellers, a range of accommodation options will be necessary. Due to departmental guideline changes since February 2013 a re-categorisation of applications on the basis of need was introduced. As a result of this Travellers as a basis of need category was removed and households were reassigned under alternative criterion for example homeless, medical, elderly, overcrowded etc. Please refer to Chapter 5.**
- All new Traveller tenancies allocated under this Programme will be subject to the payment of rent under Cork County Council's differential rent scheme.
- Cork County Council will where possible support Travellers interested in opting for private ownership through specific loans for the purchase or building of a house.
- All applications to Cork County Council must be made through the standard Cork County Council application forms. Each request will be assessed individually on the basis of need. Support and guidance will be offered through the Housing Department, in the eventuality of any difficulty arising from the application process.
- In the event of a tenant surrendering a Cork County Council tenancy there will be no obligation on the Council to re-accommodate the individuals involved.
- Where the Council considers that a person has been engaged in anti social behaviour or that a letting to that person would not be in the interests of good estate management, accommodation will not be offered by Cork County Council or the Voluntary sector.
- All reports of Anti-Social Behaviour will be investigated only on a written basis to the Estates Management Unit.
- Garda reports are sought on all prospective tenants in accordance with Section 15 of Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1997.

- Transfer applications will only be considered if the Social Housing Department deem that there is a valid housing need present under the scheme of letting priorities. The following should be noted:
 - A tenant can only apply for a transfer following a minimum of two years living in their dwelling.
 - A tenant's rent should be fully up to date for an application to be considered.
 - The tenant's property must be deemed habitable and tenantable following inspection by the Council.
 - A housing application should be fully completed and submitted with all necessary supporting documentation.
- Cork County Council requires persons who keep horses to comply with the requirements of the Control of Horses Act 1996 and the Control of Horses Bye-laws 1998. A common theme from Cork County Council's recent research on Traveller Accommodation and liaising with Traveller Representative Bodies is that the care and rearing of horses is an indelible part of Traveller culture and identity. It is the view of Cork County Council that consideration may need to be given to supporting a feasibility study with view to the provision of a horse project in the County.
- The majority of Travellers surveyed were not in favour of transient sites and it is not proposed to develop one during the lifetime of the Plan.
- The Council discourages the establishment of unauthorised encampments and to this end will use appropriate powers and measures as provided for in legislation, where necessary.

CHAPTER 3

REVIEW OF THE TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2009-2013

The types of accommodation which were allocated to Travellers for the period 2009 to 2013 were:

- Standard allocations from the County Council's general housing stock: This was the most common method of allocations to Traveller families during the 2009 to 2013 Traveller Accommodation Programme and was in response to the type of accommodation sought by the travelling community during the lifetime of the Plan.
- Group Housing: This accommodation type consists of schemes of permanent houses specifically designed for allocation to Traveller tenants.
- Acquisitions: Specific situations arose where units of accommodation were acquired to meet the needs of certain Traveller families.
- Caravans/Mobile Homes/Demountables: Occasionally Cork County Council received requests from specific families/individuals requesting the provision of these services due to specific reasons, often relating to an emergency situation. These units were generally located in either designated Council owned areas or within close proximity to family homes. Each request was individually assessed.
- Social Housing Measures.

3.1 Overall Outcomes in Accommodation Provision under Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013:

Division	Allocations 2009-2013	Number of Refusals of Accommodation
South	22	6
West	16 (Inclusive of 4 bays)	1
North	8	5
Total	46	12

3.2 Constraints contributing to Accommodation Targets not being met under the 2009-2013 Programme

A variety of reasons exist why targets were not met during the lifetime of the last Programme, among these are:

- Nationally funding allocations available for Traveller Specific Capital Projects decreased during the lifetime of the 2009-2013 Programme.
- The lack of larger units of accommodation available for occupation. This is specifically an issue in relation to four bed units or larger.
- Some applicants have requested that stand alone units are supplied in built up urban areas, in which no supply of such properties exist.
- Some Traveller families require standard accommodation in geographic areas where there is a scarcity of Cork County Council properties and which are areas of high demand across the entire waiting list.

3.3 The County Cork Traveller Inter-Agency Group

This is a national priority inter agency group chaired by An Garda Siochana. The main group meets up to four times a year and the working groups on Accommodation, Health, Youth & Education, Employment & Training and Health & Childcare meet on a regular basis to implement the actions from their agreed work plan.

Some of the group's achievements to date include:

- The delivery of Cultural Awareness Training to Cork County Council Housing Department and Cork Youth Services. Co. Cork Post Primary Schools staff also mentored by UCC staff on Traveller Cultural Awareness Training.
- The development of a successful application for FAS for funding for two Traveller specific part time job coaches and a Traveller Linkages Worker.
- The hosting of an annual Traveller Pride Event funded by Dept. of Justice Equality & Law Reform.
- The development of a Traveller Mentoring Programme in 6 Co. Cork Schools supported by UCC.

- The provision of assistance to Co. Cork schools to achieve the Yellow Flag Cultural Awareness Flag status.
- The Traveller Interagency Group has twice been successful in securing funding for projects from the Traveller Interagency and Communications Fund established by the Dept of Justice, Equality & Law Reform, for the East Cork Connect Youth Project and for the Traveller Youth Project in West Cork. Members of the Traveller Interagency Group contributed towards these projects.
- The development of an Inter agency Health Impact Assessment on the Ballydineen Halting Site Development Plan.

3.4 Existing Cork County Council Traveller Specific Accommodation and Achievements through the 2009 to 2013 Traveller Accommodation Programme.

Cork County Council provides tenancies to Traveller as follows:

Group Housing Schemes:

- Hazel Wood Grove, Ballycurreen, Kinsale Road, Cork City:

Hazel Wood Grove is a Traveller Specific Group Housing Scheme consisting of seven houses. Cork County Council provide services to this group scheme including a caretaker service.

- Foxes Hill, Cloughmacsimon, Bandon:

There are two individual houses in this location.

- Springmount, Clonakilty:

Cork County Council has two individual houses in this location.

- Rosewood Drive, Charleville:

This development consists of five individual houses for Traveller families.

Permanent Halting Sites:

- Hill View Cloughmacsimon Bandon

Four bays were provided by Cork County Council in this location and demountable units are situated on same.

- Moses' Road Halting Site, Clonakilty

This is a development of four bays which Cork County Council refurbished during the lifetime of the current Traveller Accommodation Programme. Consultation took place with the West Cork Traveller Centre in relation to the refurbishment project.

- Pier Road Halting Site, Bantry

Cork County Council provide services at this location.

Basic Service Bays

Cork County Council has service bays at:

- Marsh Road Site, Skibbereen

Two bays are in situ at this location and are currently being upgraded.

- Ballydineen, Doneraile

Consultation took place with the residents through the Health Impact Assessment process and it is proposed to develop two units of group housing accommodation at this location. In 2013 Cork County Council is progressing the provision of water supply to the site.

Cork County Council has also provided accommodation on Council owned grounds at the following locations:

- Bandon
- Clonakilty
- Middleton

A temporary unauthorised halting site in the South Cork Area was closed during the lifetime of the 2009-2013 Traveller Accommodation Programme. One family were re-accommodated in a specifically acquired property in the South Cork Area. Five Applicants from this particular Site were accommodated in standard accommodation.

Cork County Council acquired a number of family type dwellings through the house purchase acquisition programme during the lifetime of the Plan in South and North Cork.

Two extensions were undertaken in the South Cork area for the purposes of accommodating Traveller Families during 2013 as a means of alleviating overcrowding.

A number of transfers were facilitated to Traveller tenants during the life time of the 2009-2013 Programme. These transfers were granted due to specific circumstance and needs.

CHAPTER 4

INTRODUCTION TO ASSESSMENT OF TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION NEED

The Minister, under section 6 of the 1998 Act, directed that relevant housing authorities make an assessment of Traveller Accommodation requirements as part of their accommodation programme. It also specifies that a relevant housing authority must make an estimate of the number of Traveller families and households for whom accommodation will be required within the functional area of the authority during the period of the plan. Under S. 6 (5) of the 1998 Act the Minister also specifies that housing authorities shall make an estimate of projected accommodation needs arising during the duration of the programme.

4.1 2012 Census:

On the 30th of November 2012 an Annual Count of Traveller Families and their Accommodation Position was undertaken. Cork County Council is cognisant that this census is a snap shot of the position on a specified date, and that this data may have changed in some cases.

South Cork:

The census indicated that there were 199 Traveller households living in the South Cork area. Of these families 77 were living in standard local authority housing, 9 were living in local authority group houses, 4 were living in houses acquired or improved with the assistance of the local authority, 15 were living in houses acquired without local authority assistance, 31 households resided in private rented accommodation, 1 household resided in housing provided by a voluntary housing organisation.

A further 37 families were sharing accommodation with local authority tenants and private owners. 8 families were recorded as living on serviced halting sites and 1 individual were sharing accommodation on these sites. 16 families were on unauthorised sites.

West Cork

The census indicated that there were 74 Traveller households living in the West Cork area. Of these families 32 were living in standard local authority housing, 2 were living in local authority group houses, 3 were living in houses acquired or improved with the assistance of the local authority, 3 were living in houses acquired without local authority assistance, and 13 households resided in private rented accommodation.

A further 13 families were sharing accommodation with local authority tenants and private owners.

4 families were living on serviced halting sites and 1 adult individual was sharing accommodation on these sites. 3 families were on unauthorised sites.

North Cork

The census indicated that there were 103 Traveller households living in the North Cork area. Of these families 36 were living in standard local authority housing, 5 were living in local authority group houses, 5 were living in houses acquired or improved with the assistance of the local authority, 0 were living in houses acquired without local authority assistance, 45 households resided in private rented accommodation, 0 household resided in housing provided by a voluntary housing organisation.

No families were sharing accommodation with local authority tenants and private owners. 3 families were recorded as living on serviced halting sites. 9 families were on unauthorised sites.

4.2. Housing Need Assessment 2013:

Each housing authority is required under section 9 of the Housing Act, 1988 to carry out, at intervals not exceeding three years, periodic assessments of the need for social housing support. In conjunction with this assessment, each housing authority was also requested to make an assessment of the need for permanent residential caravan parks for Travellers. Under section 6 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 each housing authority which is a "relevant housing authority" for the purposes of Part II (including section 6) of the 1998 Act is required, when making an assessment of the need for housing, to make an assessment of the need for residential halting sites for Travellers in their functional areas.

Traveller families in need of accommodation 2013:

Divisional Area	Number of households with an accommodation need	Preferences Selected:				
		Standard Housing	Group Housing	Halting Site Bays	Extensions	Transfers
South	49	37	1	3	0	8
West	24	21	0	1	0	2
North	40	38	2	0	0	0

As returns to the Department of the Environment Community and Local Government concentrate on the provision of new units of accommodation to Traveller households, the numbers in relation to transfers and extensions are not included for the overall targets in chapter entitled Implementation Measures.

4.3. Traveller Accommodation Survey 2013 (Appendix 2 & 3)

Cork County Council undertook a research project to identify the views of Travellers in the County who are in need of accommodation. The extent of this need and other relevant information will assist the Local Authority in developing an Accommodation Action Plan appropriate to their needs. This primary research was undertaken with families in the Cork County area who have an accommodation need and families who had children who would reach the age of eighteen during the life time of the Programme. The information collected will assist in informing policy and practice when addressing the accommodation needs of Travellers.

The main results of this research can be summarised as follows:

- The majority of primary respondents were female (53.5%), single (45.8%), and were less than 25 years of age (28.1%).
- The majority of respondents living at home were male (53.5%), aged between 0-3 years old (22.3%), and born in Cork (78.6%).

- A total of 32 respondents had no previous tenancies, 24 respondents had 1 previous tenancy with a further 6.3% (n=5) indicating that they were either undertaking their first tenancy, were living at home, or had 3 previous tenancies. The most common type of accommodation of respondent families was privately rented properties (52%). A total of 22.4% were residing in council tenancies. A further 9.2% of respondent families indicated they were transient/roadside families, or sharing with family or friends. Additionally, 5.1% stated they are resident on a halting site, with a further 1% indicating that they were either homeless or in privately owned premises. The accommodation type desired by most was a standard house (65.9%). A total of 2 respondents stated they applied to Cork County Council for a transfer. A 4 bedroom house was the most popular choice for those wishing to transfer from their current accommodation. With regard to pending housing applications, a standard house was most preferred (91.9%), with a specific preference for a 3 bed house (67.2%).
- A minority of settled families indicated that they go on the road for a period of time.
- Of the total number of respondents who come under the transient/roadside category (7.1% n=10), the length of time at their current location varies from 6 to 20 years.
- The preferred location for a come and go site varied according to the division the respondent resided in; however overall feedback indicated that the majority of respondents were not in favour.
- In terms of future accommodation needs, the majority of respondents indicated that their children would have a preference to reside in a standard house. For those who indicated that their children would most likely require a halting site, the preferred type of accommodation here was caravan/ mobile home accommodation.
- The main issues of concern to the travelling community who participated in this research included:
 - Opinion that Travellers are misjudged and treated unfairly
 - Issues with accommodation provision

- Issues with accommodation, specifically relating to animal maintenance
- Issues with waiting times for accommodation

These results of this research will assist Cork County Council in formulating their Traveller Accommodation Programme in a manner that meets the needs of the travelling community residing in the county. The research findings will prove particularly beneficial in terms of allowing the local authority to allocate resources and work with an accurate reflection of the reality on the ground. It will provide Cork County Council with a wealth of information that will give them a much deeper insight into the communities they are working with.

CHAPTER 5

IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2014-2018

5.1 Introduction:

- The projected need for the South Cork Area for the five years of the Traveller Accommodation Programme, excluding future household formations is 41 families.
- The projected need for the West Cork Area for the five years of the Traveller Accommodation Programme, excluding future household formations is 22 families.
- The projected need for the North Cork Area for the five years of the Traveller Accommodation Programme, excluding of future household formations is 40.

5.2 Existing Accommodation Circumstances of Traveller Applicants: Cork County:

Accommodation Type	South	West	North	Total
Private Rented	21	12	23	56
Homeless	3	2	0	5
Group Accommodation Scheme (Sharing)	2	2	0	4
Privately owned house (sharing)	3	0	0	3
Standard Council House (Sharing)	1	6	4	11
Sites (permanent)	1	0	0	1
Roadside or unauthorised	7	0	11	18
Private Property	3	0	2	5
Total	41	22	40	103

Due to Departmental Guideline Changes a re-categorisation of applications on the basis of need was introduced. As a result of this, Travellers as a basis of need category was removed and households were reassigned priority under alternative criterion for example, homeless, medical, elderly, overcrowded etc. Taking this new development

into account, Cork County Council has confined their targeted need to the remaining applicants. It is envisaged that the Applicants who are currently in private rented accommodation will be accommodated through the Housing Assistance Payment, once introduced to Local Authorities, and through the following Housing Options:

- Local Authority Housing
- Voluntary/Co-Operative Housing
- RAS Housing
- Leased Accommodation
- Home modifications due to disability requirements

The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government requested that Local Authorities examine the projected need of Travellers and future family formations with a view to establishing the number that will have a housing need during the period of the Programme. 68 individuals were estimated to have a housing need for both short term and long term accommodation. This is broken down in the table below. It is intended that these individuals will be assisted through short term income supports such as Supplementary Welfare Allowance or Housing Assistance Payment, once introduced until their longer term needs are assessed. The minority of people who expressed a belief that their children may require bays or Traveller Specific Accommodation, will be closely reviewed. Cork County Council are mindful of the needs of future family formations and will continue to liaise with their families of origin on the likely needs of this group during the lifetime of this Programme.

Projected need is by necessity an estimated figure and obviously it is very difficult to predict specifically which of these children will formally apply to Cork County Council for accommodation, where they will select as a permanent preference and what type of tenure they will opt for.

5.3 Projected Family Formations as Identified:

Divisional Area	Number of projected households based on individuals turning 18 during life time of Programme:
South	41
West	11
North	16

In general, it is proposed that newly-formed Traveller households can make suitable arrangements for securing private-rented accommodation; however Cork County Council will be cognisant of each household's need and particular circumstances as they arise on an individual basis and acknowledge the difficulties some families encounter when trying to secure private rented accommodation.

5.4 Overall Accommodation Targets County Cork:

Accommodation Type	South	West	North	Total
Standard Housing/Acquisitions	16	9	15	40
Group Housing	1	0	2	3
Residential Caravan Bay/Existing Bays	3	1	0	4
Total	20	10	17	47

5.5 Accommodation Targets County Cork by Year:

Accommodation Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Standard Housing/Acquisitions	8	8	8	8	8	40
Group Housing	0	0	3	0	0	3
Residential Caravan Bay/Existing Bays	3	1	0	0	0	4
Total	11	9	11	8	8	47

Accommodation by the Voluntary Bodies who receive assistance from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government will prove vital in ensuring Travellers are accommodated during the lifetime of the Plan. Whilst no specific targets have been set for the voluntary sector, these housing bodies will be required to accommodate a number of Traveller families whether through standard accommodation or through the support of the local authorities under the Capital Assistance Scheme and other Social Leasing Initiative Supports.

Assistance will also be provided to Travellers who wish to acquire their own dwellings through Cork County Council loans section, subject to meeting the qualifying criteria for same.

Council staff will continue to assist and advise Travellers in relation to the range of housing options available to them such as Private Rented accommodation, Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), and long term leasing.

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION

Cork County Council will be the implementing authority for the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018. However there will be full consultation with relevant bodies through the mechanisms of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees and Inter Agency Groups.

Cork County Council welcomes and acknowledges the support of the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, the HSE, and all other agencies to date in supporting the Traveller Accommodation Programme. The initiation of any proposed new schemes will require the on-going support of the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and the provision of funding towards same. Cork County Council will fully consult with its Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees in relation to any proposed new works or refurbishment plans either by direct provision or by the Voluntary Housing Associations who will have an increased role in this area.

Annual targets will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure that progress will be maintained.

The number of Traveller families and their accommodation preferences in this Programme is based on existing need, but from Cork County Council's experience the overall picture is one which may change and evolve over the life time of this Traveller Accommodation Programme.

Cork County Council will continue to consult with individual Traveller families and Traveller support groups with a view to identifying the most appropriate accommodation for individual families.

The success of this programme will require that Applicant Households are mindful of the limitations and restrictions that Cork County Council operate within. Therefore in particular attention has to be drawn to the fact that many families request

accommodation in areas where vacancies are unlikely to arise and this issue inhibits Cork County Council's ability to reach targets set down. Furthermore, there are many issues such as education, training, employment and health which must be tackled in conjunction with the provision of Traveller accommodation in order to successfully implement the Accommodation programme.

Cork County Council is committed to the principals of interagency working and will continue to work in partnership with all relevant agencies to ensure positive outcomes from this Programme.

Appendix 1 - Requests for Submissions:

South Cork:

- All City and County Managers from surrounding Local Authorities i.e. Cork City Council, Kerry County Council, Limerick City and County Council, South Tipperary County Council, Waterford County Council and Waterford City Council.
- Town Clerks in Bandon, Bantry, Clonakilty, Cobh, Fermoy, Kinsale, Macroom, Mallow, Midleton, Passage West, Skibbereen, and Youghal.
- The Membership of the South Cork Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.
- Cork Traveller Women's Network.
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
- Traveller Visibility Group.
- Community Worker for Social Inclusion, HSE.
- Community Welfare Officers, Abbey Court House.
- Probation and Welfare Service.
- Homeless Person's Unit.
- Office of Community and Enterprise, County Hall.
- Threshold.
- Respond Housing Association.
- Cluid Housing Association.
- Sofia Housing Association.
- Social Work Section, Housing Department, Cork City Council.
- Tuath Housing.
- Shanbally Housing.
- NABCO Housing.
- Access Housing Unit.
- National Education and Welfare Board.
- Cork Simon Community.
- Edel House.
- Good Shepard Services.
- Cuanlee Refuge.
- Focus Ireland.

West Cork

- West Cork Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.
- Superintendent Community Welfare Officer Health Service Executive.
- West Cork Women Against Violence.
- West Cork Traveller Centre.

North Cork

- Community Welfare Services, HSE.
- Travellers of North Cork.
- Avondu Community Development.
- Ballyhoura Association.
- Le Cheile.
- Public Health Nurses, HSE.

Appendix 2



**Travelling Community
Accommodation Survey
Report**



21st October, 2013

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The following study has been commissioned by the Directorate of Housing for Cork County Council. The primary focus of this study was to obtain relevant data that will allow Cork County Council to accurately assess the current accommodation situation for members of the travelling community as well as plan for their future accommodation needs.

There were a total of 98 completed responses to this survey, with an additional 6 respondents providing limited or no feedback. Altogether, 55 respondents resided in the North Cork division, 28 in the South Cork division and 21 in the West Cork division of the County. There were a total of 98 (90.8%) responses from Traveller Households settled in County Cork, 7 responses (7.1%) from transient/roadside families and a further 2 (2%) responses from those who were homeless.

Section 1 of this report profiles the primary respondent to this survey, their spouse/partner, the household composition and examines the number of individuals who no longer reside at home. Section 2 examines the current accommodation of respondents and their families whilst section 3 explores accommodation preferences of respondents. Section 4 sets out the situation regarding settled families whilst section 5 does so for roadside/transient families. Section 6 looks at come and go sites. Section 7 explores the accommodation needs of those who may require accommodation some time in the future. Finally section 8 sets out a number of areas of concern expressed by the participants in this research.

The information collected during the course of this research will help inform policy and practice presently and into the future in addressing the accommodation needs of the travelling community.

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The Directorate of Housing of Cork County Council (South, West and Northern Divisions) are currently in the process of drafting a Traveller Accommodation Programme for the County. This programme is a requirement of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998. The programme will focus on the accommodation needs of Traveller families and how best the local authority can work towards meeting these needs. From an accommodation perspective, this programme is of great importance as it sets out the needs of Traveller families in the area and their accommodation preferences during the lifetime of the programme 2014-2018.

Cork County Council felt it was imperative to obtain up-to-date and relevant information regarding the accommodation situation and requirements of members of the travelling community residing in the county. To this end a decision was taken by the Local Authority to take a proactive approach by conducting research to yield the desired information. Although the development of the Traveller Accommodation Programme for the county is set out in legislation, the conducting of an in depth piece of research was not a statutory requirement. The Housing (Traveller) Act 1998 states that:

"A relevant housing authority shall make an estimate of the number of Traveller families and households for whom accommodation will be required within the functional area for a period which the Minister may by direction specify".

There was a view held by the Department of the Environment and Local Government that the Housing Needs Assessment conducted in early 2013 would be a good basis for constructing the Traveller Accommodation Programme along with the local authority's annual census. Cork County Council was anxious to have a more complete picture of the specific circumstances and requirements of Traveller households in its jurisdiction. Hence the main reason for undertaking the research was to develop a better understanding of the need and local context in which the new Traveller Accommodation Programme is being adopted. Obtaining information that would assist the process of planning for the future needs of the travelling community was also a key focus of this research. Cork County Council sought to ensure that they not only endeavour to meet the accommodation needs of the travelling community now, but also into the future. Hence there was a particular emphasis on children aged 14 years or over with a view to meeting their accommodation needs during the lifetime of the programme.

In order to obtain this information, Cork County Council embarked on a process of conducting primary research with families in the area in need of accommodation. This research involved the collection of a combination of both quantitative and qualitative data. The research was undertaken by Cork County Council in partnership with the Marketing Centre for Small Business at the University of

Limerick. Cork County Council undertook and managed the initial stages of the research including questionnaire design and data collection. The Marketing Centre were engaged to conduct data input, data analysis, the provision of research findings and subsequent report compilation.

The following objectives were set out and the role of the Marketing Centre for Small Business involved:

- ❑ Inputting all the data collected by Cork County Council (in hard copy format) relating to the 2013 Traveller Accommodation Needs Survey.
- ❑ Collating all the data received to produce research findings based on the entire sample of respondents who participated in the 2013 study.
- ❑ To analyse the research findings and present them to Cork County Council in the form of a research report which will detail the background to the study, the methodology employed, the research findings and conclusions based on the study.

This report represents an aggregation of data collected throughout the county.

Research Methodology

The initial stage of the research process was to identify the number of Traveller households in the county who had an accommodation need. This initial assessment of need was conducted by Cork County Council based on existing data and subsequently they used a comprehensive questionnaire to elicit the necessary information. The questionnaire included a combination of questions both quantitative and qualitative in nature.

The sampling frame for this research included all families in the county with an accommodation need as well as families who may not currently have a requirement for accommodation but who had children aged 14 years or over who may have an accommodation need during the lifetime of the Traveller Accommodation Plan which will run from 2014-2018.

The methodology employed for this research involved face-to-face and telephone interviewing through the use of a semi-structured survey with relevant members of the travelling community. As social workers are the primary point of contact with the travelling community and by virtue of the fact that they are interacting with members of the travelling community on a regular basis, it was considered appropriate that they adopt the role of interviewer in this instance. In some cases where it was not possible for social workers to meet families, respondents were asked to self-complete the questionnaires and return them by post to the housing division of Cork County Council or in some circumstances the interviewers were Cork County Council's Housing Staff.

The social workers made arrangements to meet with relevant families with a view to enlisting their cooperation in terms of participating in the research. The social workers communicated the purpose of the research and afforded participants assurances in terms of the confidentiality of the findings. The social workers then completed the questionnaires with the participants. Social workers collected all survey forms and forwarded the completed surveys to the Marketing Centre for Small Business at UL. Here data was inputted, analysed and compiled in report format. This was done so following a guarantee of confidentiality to the local authority by the Marketing Centre where data was inputted and analysed according to strict assurances in terms of data protection and security.

Section 1: Respondent Profile

There were a total of 98 completed responses to this survey, with an additional 6 respondents providing limited or no feedback. The following section profiles the primary respondents, their spouses/partners, and others living in the home.

Primary Respondent

The gender of the primary respondent is displayed in figure 1.

Figure 1: Gender of Primary Respondent (n=101)

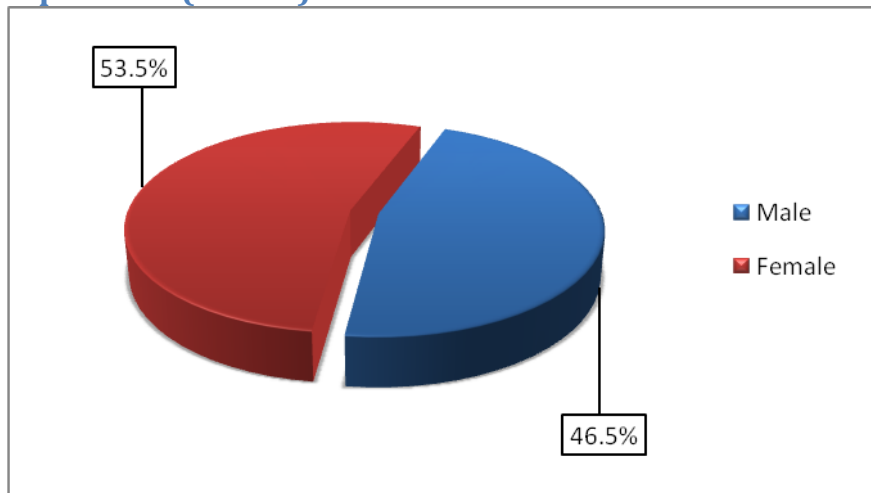


Figure 1 shows that the gender breakdown between male and female respondents was almost even with a slightly higher percentage of female respondents (53.5%) versus male (46.5%) overall.

The marital status of the primary respondent is displayed in figure 2.

Figure 2: Marital Status of Primary Respondent (n=96)

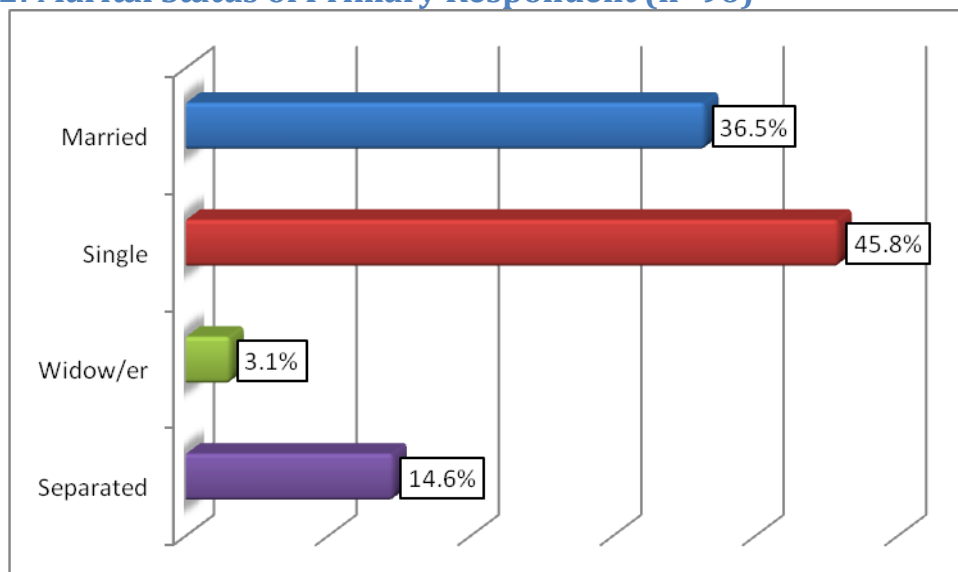


Figure 2 shows that the majority of respondents to this survey were single (45.8%). This was followed closely by those who were married (36.5%). The numbers who were separated represented 14.6.6%, widowed 3.1. % and no one indicated that they were divorced.

The age brackets relating to the primary respondents are displayed in figure 3.

Figure 3: Age of Primary Respondent (n=96)

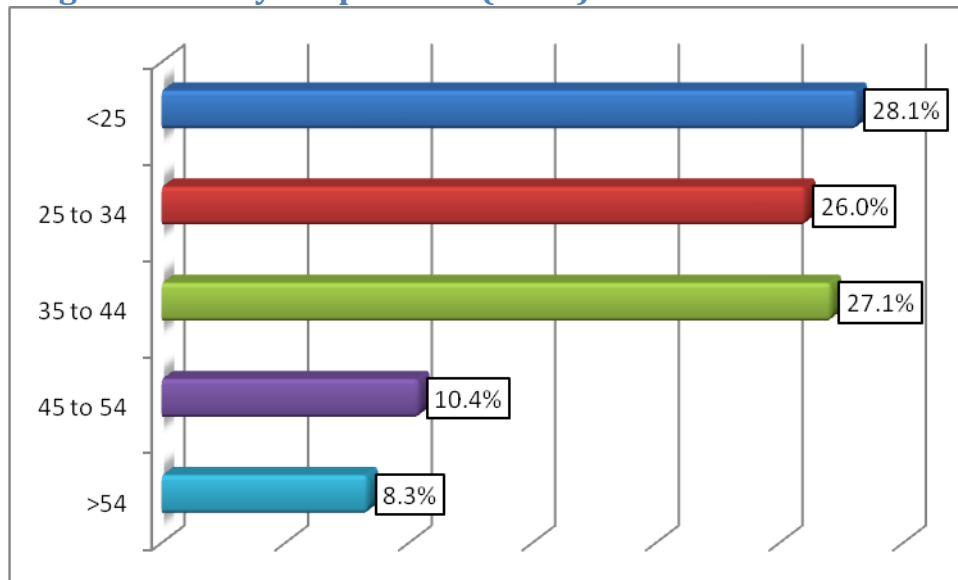


Figure 3 shows that the spread among age brackets was very close for respondents under 45 however the majority of respondents (28.1%) were under 25 years of age. This was followed by those aged between 35-44 years of age (27.1%); 25-34 years of age (26%); those aged 45-54 years of age (10.4%) whilst only a small number of respondents (8.3%) were over 54 years of age. The average age of the primary respondent was 31 years.

Respondents were then asked about their state of health.

Figure 4: Health Status of Primary Respondent (n=109)

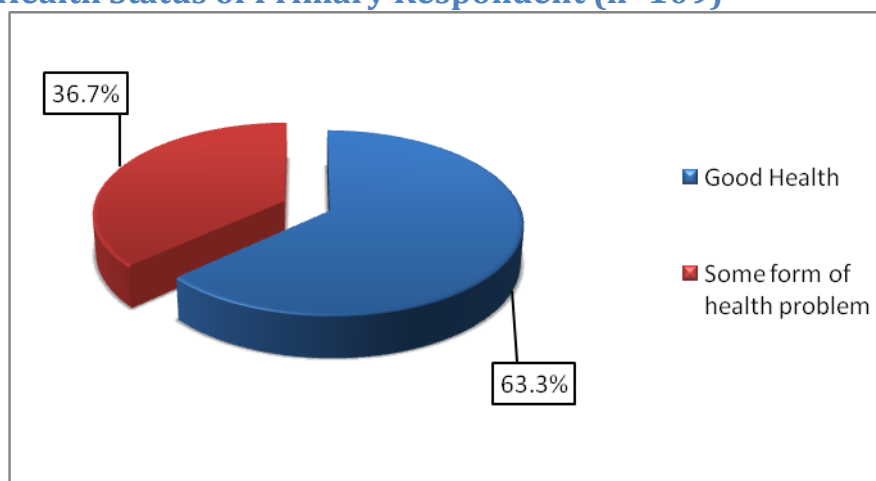


Figure 4 provides an overview of these responses; the majority of responses (63.3%) indicated that participants were in good health whilst 37% of responses indicated that there was some type of health complaint present.

Secondary Respondent (Spouse/Partner)

The gender of the secondary respondent is indicated in the figure below.

Figure 5: Gender of Secondary Respondent (n=47)

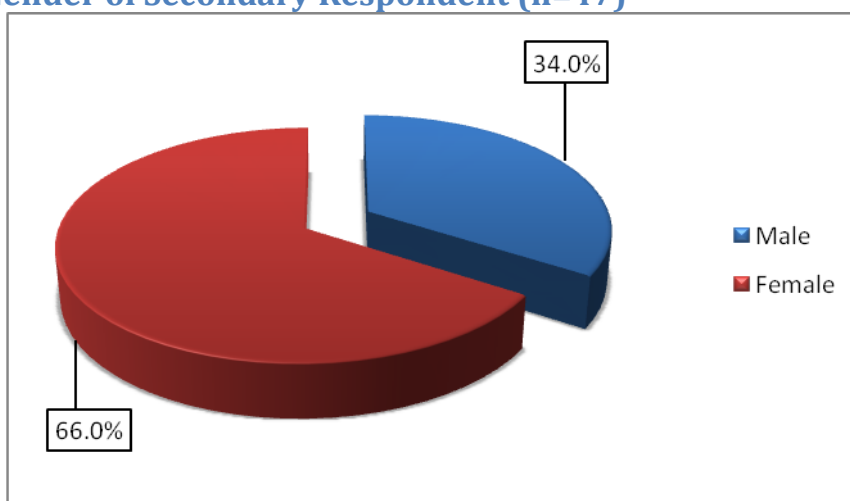
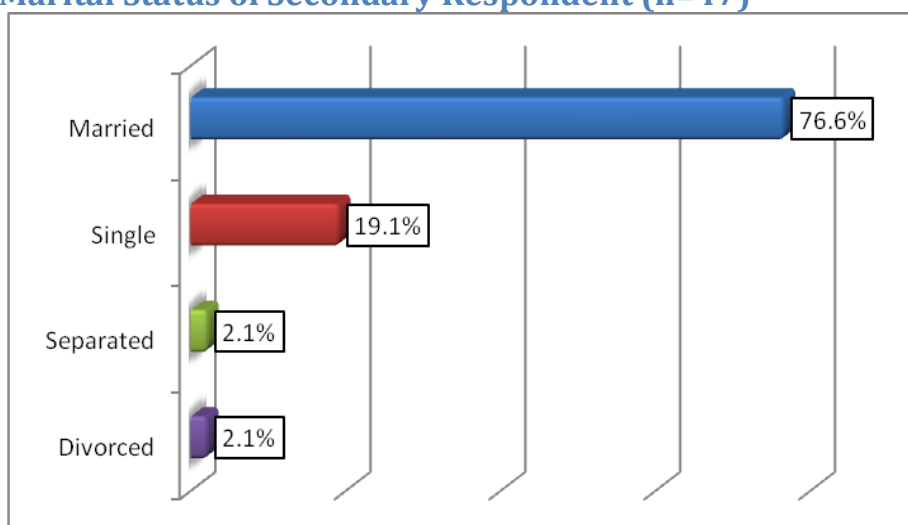


Figure 5 shows that a large majority of secondary respondents (spouses/partners) were in fact female (66%) with 34% of male respondents.

Respondents were asked to indicate their marital status.

Figure 6: Marital Status of Secondary Respondent (n=47)



The vast majority of secondary respondents were married (76.6%). A much smaller percentage were single (19.1%) with an equal number of respondents (2.1%) either separated or divorced.

Respondents were asked to indicate their age.

Figure 7: Age of Secondary Respondents (n=46)

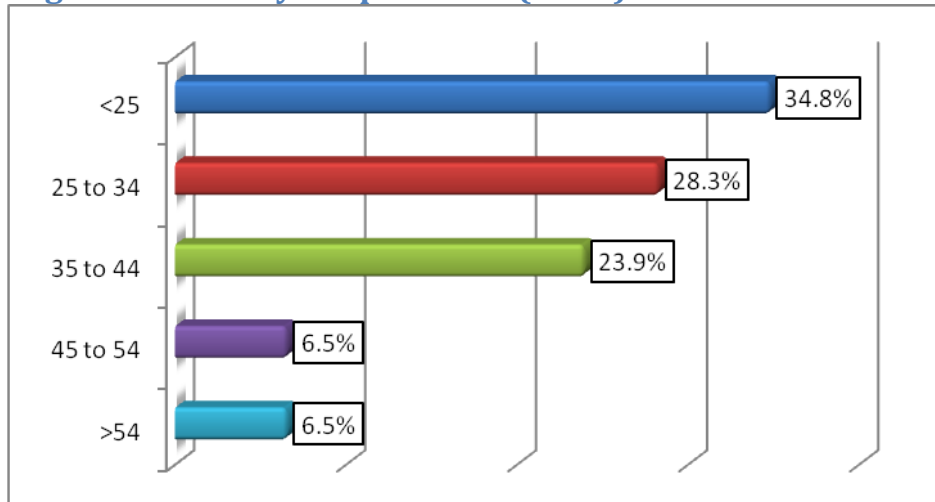
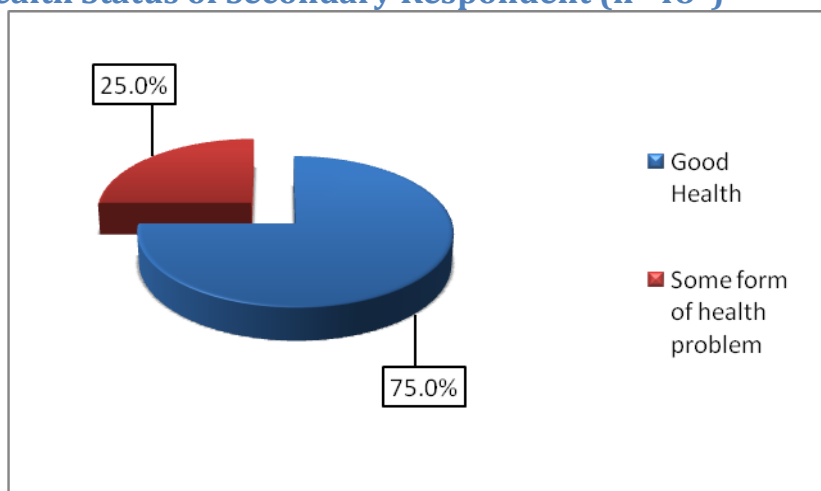


Figure 7 shows that the majority of secondary respondents were under 25 years of age (34.8%). This was followed by 28.3% of respondents who were aged between 25-34 years of age; 23.9% of respondents aged between 35-44 years of age and an equal number of respondents (6.5%) aged between 45-54 and over 54 years of age.

Respondents were then asked about their state of health.

Figure 8: Health Status of Secondary Respondent (n=48*)



** Includes multiple conditions cited*

Figure 8 provides an overview of these responses, with the majority of responses (75%) indicating that participants were in good health whilst 25% of responses indicated that there was some type of health complaint present.

Household Composition – Individuals Still Living at Home

Respondents were asked to indicate the gender of individuals living at home.

Figure 9: Gender of Individuals Living at Home (n=200)

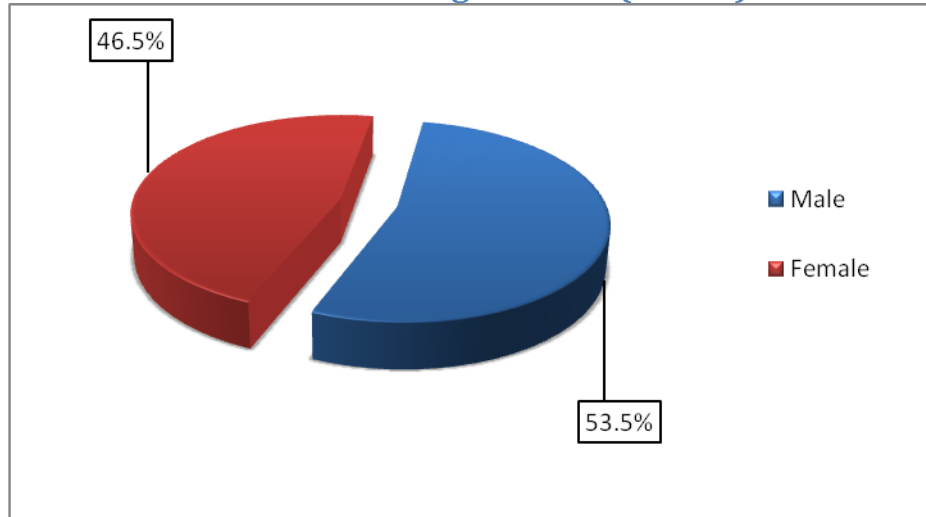


Figure 9 shows that of those individuals living at home (n=200), 53.5% of them were male and 46.5% female.

Respondents were asked to indicate the ages of the individuals still living at home.

Figure 10: Ages of Individuals Living at Home

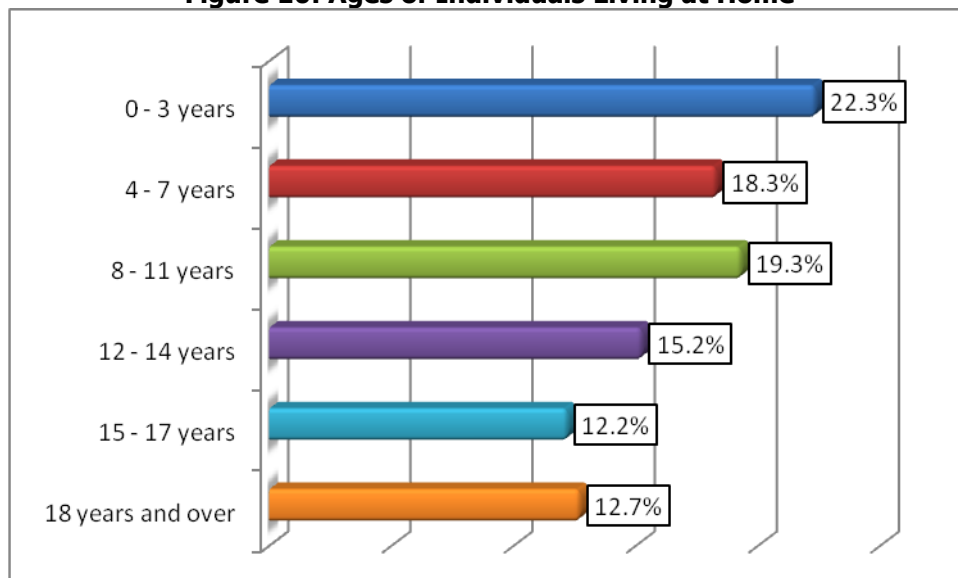


Figure 10 shows that of those living at home with the primary and/or secondary respondent to the survey, 22.3% are aged under 3, 18.3% between 4-7 years, 19.3% aged 8-11 years, 15.2% aged 12-14 years, 12.2% aged between 15-17 years and 12.7% aged over 18 years. The cumulative figure

of particular interest to this survey is the number of people aged over 14 years still residing at home. This figure amounts to 24.9% (n=49) of all respondents.

Table 3 gives a more detailed breakdown of the exact ages of all the respondents living at home.

Table 1: Number of Individuals Living at Home by Household (n=197)

Ages	n-value
1	21
2	8
3	15
4	6
5	13
6	12
7	5
8	5
9	13
10	7
11	13
12	7
13	7
14	16
15	7
16	10
17	7
18 or over	25
Total	197

Respondents were asked to indicate the place of birth of those individuals who were still living at home.

Figure 11: Place of Birth of Individuals Living at Home (n=192)

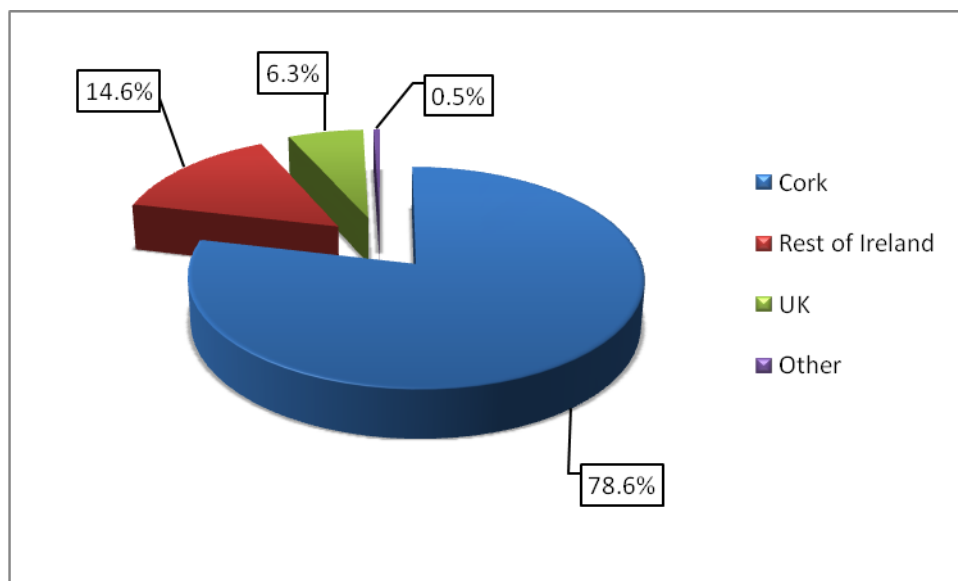


Figure 11 shows that the majority of individuals (78.6%) still living at home were born in Cork. Of the remaining places of birth, a greater number of individuals were born somewhere in the rest of Ireland (14.6%), 6.3% were born in the UK with only 0.5% stating they were born elsewhere.

Section 2: Current Accommodation

This section examines the current accommodation situation of respondents and their families.

Figure 12: Number of Previous Tenancies (n=80)

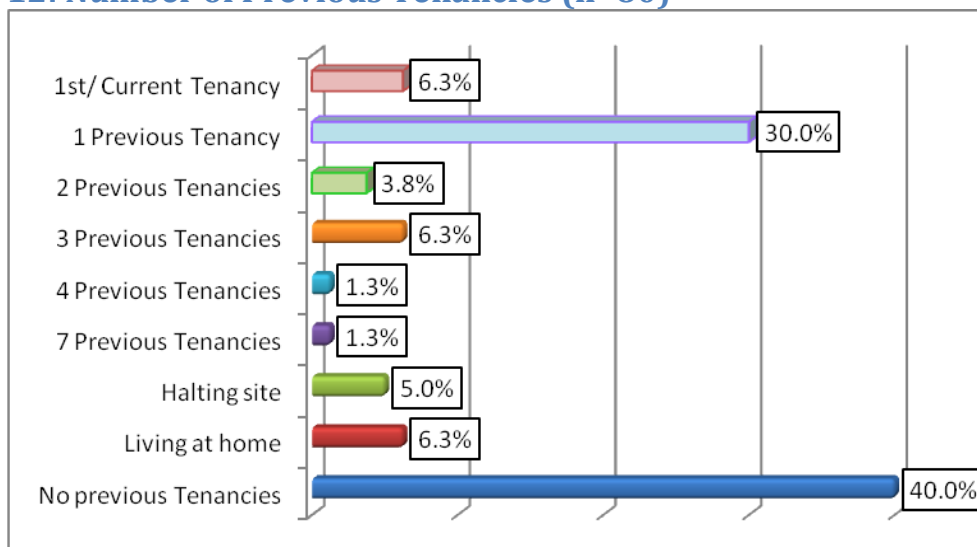


Figure 12 illustrates that the majority of respondents (40%, n=32) had no previous tenancies. A total of 30% (n=24) of respondents had one previous tenancy with an equal number (6.3%, n=5) indicating that they were either undertaking their first tenancy, were living at home, or had 3 previous tenancies. Overall, 1.3% (n=1) of respondents respectively indicated that they had held 4 previous tenancies or 7 previous tenancies.

In the case where respondents had previous tenancies, they were asked to elaborate on the reasons as to why they left their previous accommodation.

Respondents referred to a number of reasons for leaving their previous accommodation and the frequency in which they were mentioned is detailed in table 4. The main reasons related to tenancy expiration, unsuitable living accommodation and feud related issues.

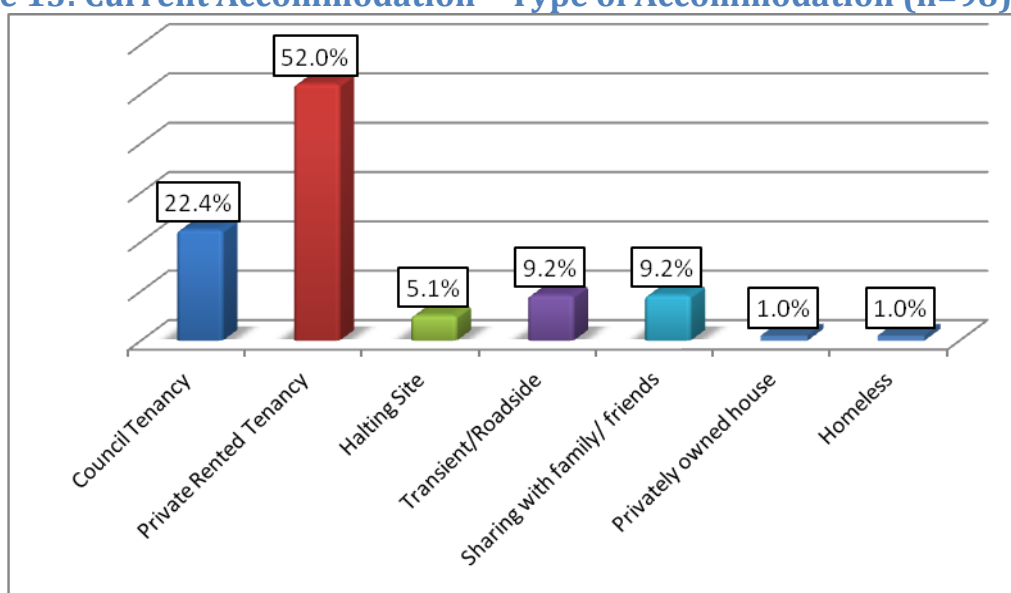
Table 2: Reason for leaving previous accommodation (n=39)

Reasons for Leaving	%	n-value
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Tenancy expired/ Rental allowance issues	25.6%	10
House Too Small/ Unsuitable	17.9%	7
Feuding	10.3%	4
Marriage Separation	7.7%	3
Maintaining Current Tenancy	7.7%	3
Problems in Area	5.1%	2
Transferred to House	5.1%	2
Sought Independence	5.1%	2
Moved location	5.1%	2
Personal preference	2.6%	1
Family Issues	2.6%	1
Domestic Violence	2.6%	1
Marriage	2.6%	1
Total	100%	39

Respondents were asked to indicate what type of accommodation they currently resided in.

Figure 13: Current Accommodation - Type of Accommodation (n=98)



The majority of respondents (52%) reside in a private rented tenancy. The next highest percentage of respondents (22.4%) reside in a council tenancy, of which 12 respondents are in a bungalow, 10 in standard housing, and 1 in a group housing scheme. The numbers residing in other types of residences are significantly lower. A total of 9.2% of respondents live in a yard or roadside, with an equal number of respondents sharing with family members or friends. A further 1% of respondents indicated respectively that they were either homeless, or in a privately owned house at present. Additionally, 5.1% of respondents stated they are resident on a halting site.

Section 3: Desired Accommodation

Once the situation in terms of respondent's current accommodation had been assessed, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate their preferred type of accommodation. Respondents were presented with the choice of standard accommodation or Traveller specific accommodation.

Figure 14: Preferred Type of Accommodation (n=88)

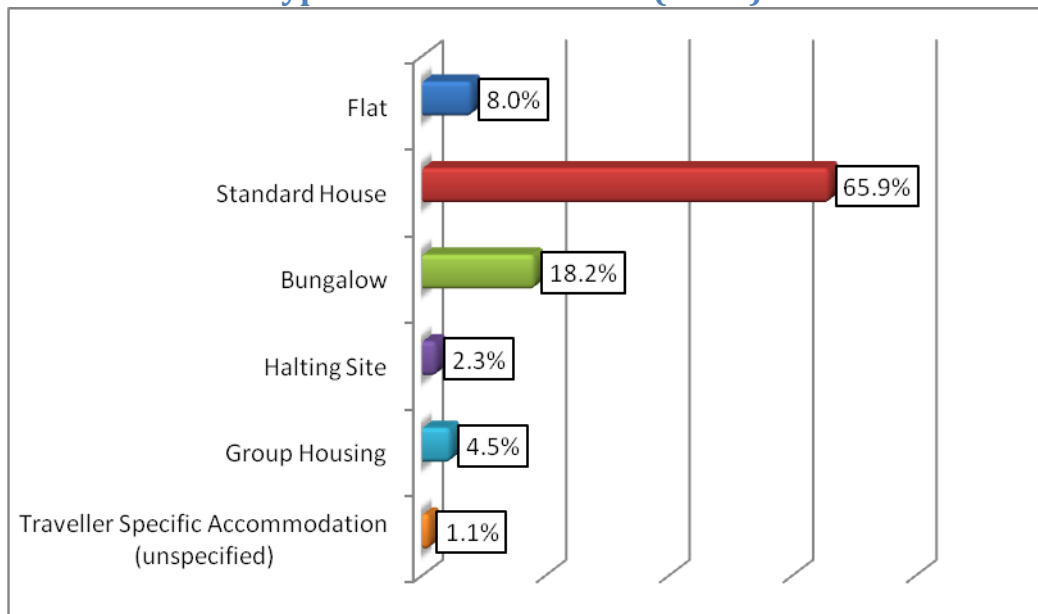


Figure 14 shows that the accommodation preference of the majority of respondents related to standard housing options with 65.9% of respondents indicating they would like to stay in a standard house, 18.2% indicated that their desired accommodation would be a bungalow and 8% of respondents indicated that they had a desire to reside in a flat. In terms of Traveller-Specific Accommodation, 2.3% of respondents indicated that they would like to live on a halting site with 4.5% respondent indicating that they would like to live in group housing. No respondents selected transient/ come and go sites as a preference specifically, however 1 respondent selected Traveller specific accommodation as a general preference.

Local Authority Tenants

Respondents were then segmented into those who were already Cork County Council tenants and current applicants. Of those who are current local authority tenants, respondents who were seen to have an accommodation need were asked what type of accommodation they had applied to Cork County Council for. This is detailed in figure 16.

Figure 15: Current Tenant - Have you applied to Cork Co. Co for a transfer? (n=8)

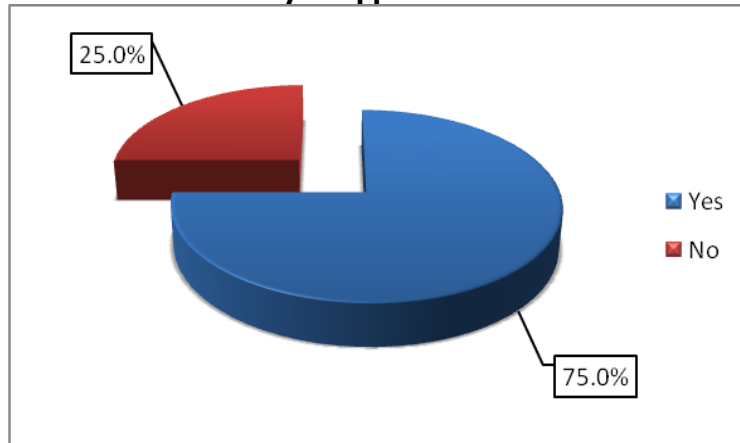


Figure 15 shows that of those which responded, 75% had applied to Cork County Council for a transfer.

Current tenants who had applied for a transfer were asked to indicate what type of accommodation they had applied for.

Figure 16: Current Tenant - Type of Accommodation Applied For (n=4)

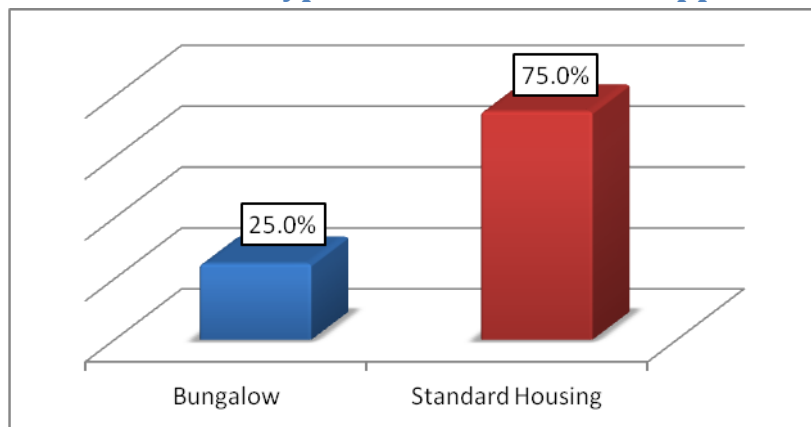


Figure 16 shows that the majority of current tenants who had applied for a transfer sought to move to a standard house (75%) whilst 25% of tenants applied for transfer to a bungalow.

Following on from this, tenants were asked to indicate the size of accommodation applied for.

Figure 17: Current Tenant - Size of Accommodation Applied For (n=6)

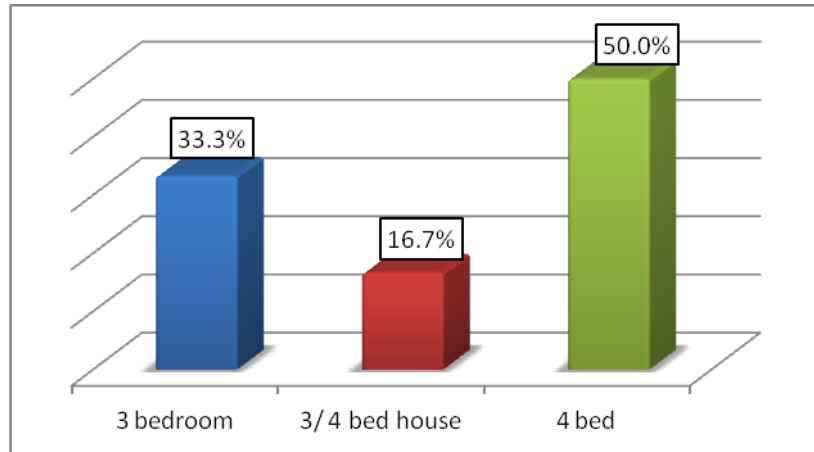


Figure 17 shows that the majority of current tenants who had applied to Cork County Council for a transfer were seeking a 4 bedroom house (50%). The next highest percentage included those applying for a 3 bedroom house (33.3%). This was followed by those who indicated that they were seeking a 3/4 bedroom house (16.7%).

Following on from this, tenants were asked to indicate their preferred location for the accommodation sought. A number of areas were suggested by a total of 6 respondents. Overall, 4 of these respondents stated they would prefer a South Cork location, with each of the remaining respondents indicating North Cork or West Cork as their preference respectively.

Of those who had applied for Traveller-specific accommodation, one respondent indicated that they applied for a halting site and another sole respondent indicated that they submitted a group housing application.

Local Authority Applicants

After examining the situation with current tenants of Cork County Council, the questionnaire then went on to explore the housing requirements of those who had accommodation applications pending. Initially respondents were asked to indicate the type of house they had applied for.

Figure 18: Current Applicant - Type of House Applied For (n=74)

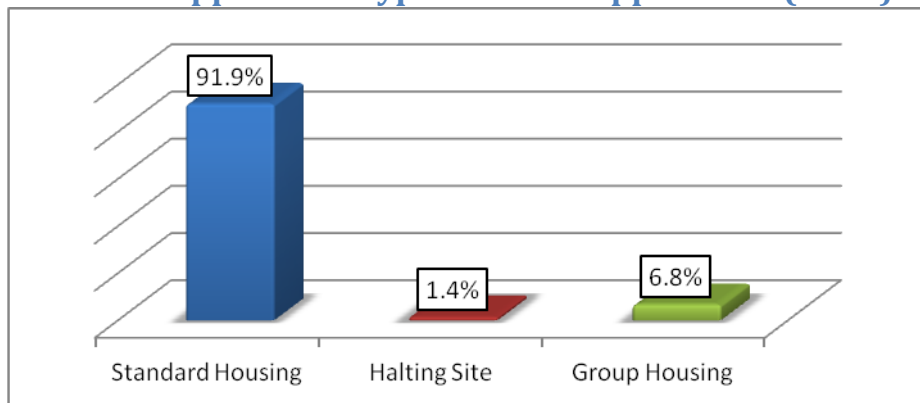


Figure 18 shows that the majority of current applicants had applied for standard housing (91.9%). This was followed in much smaller numbers by those who had applied for a group housing (6.8%) and those who had applied for a halting site (1.4%).

Current applicants were asked to indicate the size of house they had applied for.

Figure 19: Current Applicant - Size of House Applied For (n=61)

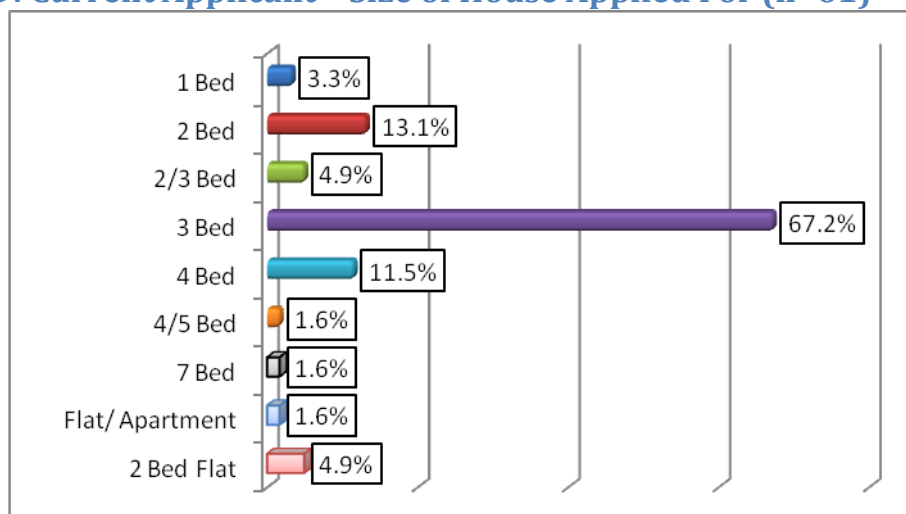


Figure 19 shows that the vast majority of applicants had applied for a 3 bedroom house (67.2%). The next highest percentage of applicants had applied for a 2 bedroom house (13.1%) followed by those who had applied for a 4 bedroom house (11.5%).

The location of the desired properties specified by respondents have been reviewed and segregated into their various regions; the results indicate that 43 respondents would prefer accommodation in North Cork, with 14 respondents identifying their preferred location to be in South Cork. An additional 7 respondents stated they would like accommodation in the West Cork region.

Section 4: Settled Families

This section deals with Traveller families who are seen to be settled in County Cork, and their travel patterns. Out of the total number of respondents to this survey, 91 (92.9%) respondents come under the settled category.

The following table sets out a number of findings relating to the travel patterns of settled families.

Table 3: Travel Patterns amongst Respondents

Travelling on the Road	%	n-value
<i>Do you go on the road for a period of time?</i>		
Yes	8.4%	7
No	91.6%	76
Total		83
<i>When do you go on the road?</i>		
Summer Months	66.7%	4
More than 5 years ago	33.3%	2
Total		6
<i>For how long do you go on the road?</i>		
A few weeks at a time	20%	1
A few months at a time	60%	3
A few years	20%	1
Total		4

Initially respondents were asked whether they go on the road for a period of time. Findings show that only a relatively small percentage (8.4%) of settled families indicate that they go on the road. Of those who do travel on the road, 66.7% of them (n=4) stated that they do so during the summer months whilst the remaining 33.3% (n=2) stated that it was over 5 years ago since they were on the road. When asked to indicate the length of time spent on the road, results varied with the majority of respondents (60%, n=3) indicating that they go on the road for a few months at a time, this was followed by an equal number of respondents (20%, n=1) going for a few weeks at a time or going on the road for a few years at a time.

When asked the locations that they travel to, the following results were recorded:

- *Cork (n=2)*
- *England (n=1)*
- *Kerry/ Limerick/ Clare (n=1)*
- *Wexford (n=1)*
- *General (n=1)*

Section 5: Roadside Families

This section examines the situation of roadside families. Findings show that there were a total of 10 (7.1%) roadside/transient respondents recorded.

Firstly respondents were asked to indicate how long they have been at their current roadside location.

Figure 20: Period of Time at Present Location (n=10)

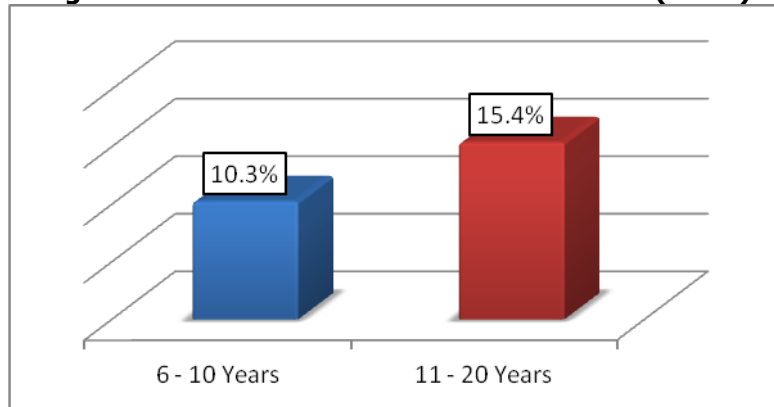


Figure 20 shows that the majority of roadside respondents have been at their current location for between 11-20 years (15.4%, n=6), with a further 10.3% (n=4) indicating their residence was between 6-10 years in duration.

Figure 21: Period of Time in Cork County Council Area (n=4)

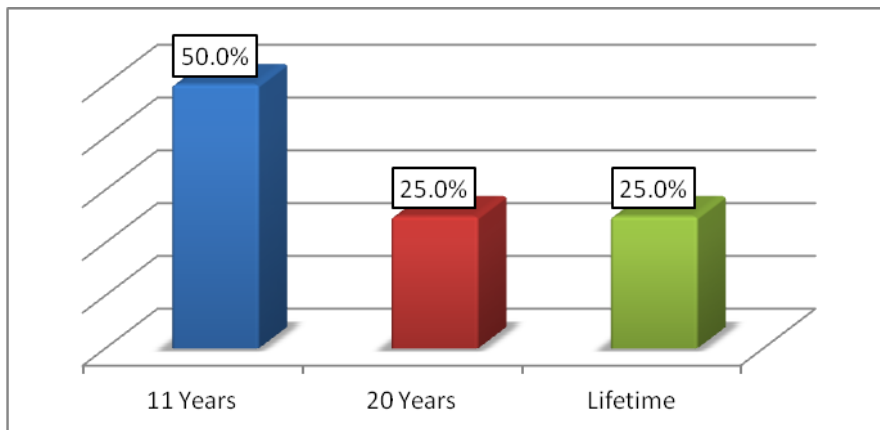
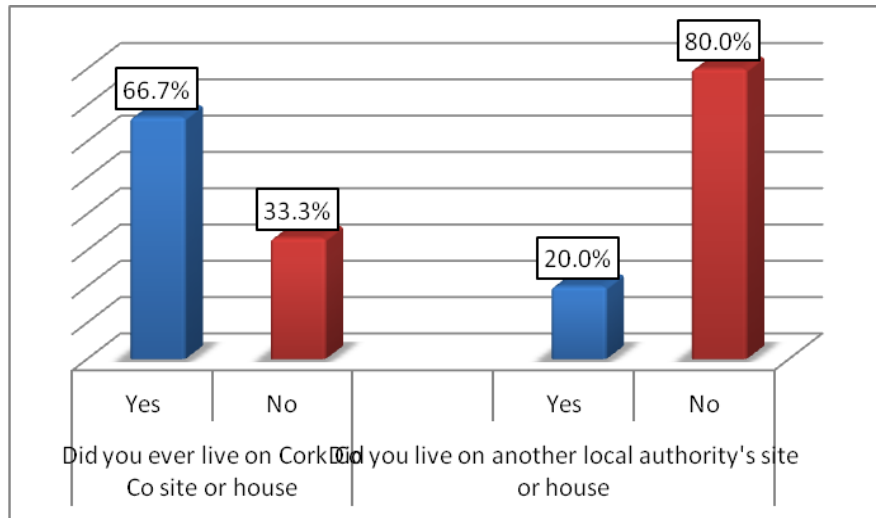


Figure 21 shows that 1 respondent (50%, n=2) has been in the Cork County Council area for 11 years whilst the remaining 2 respondents indicated they have been in Cork County Council's jurisdiction for ≤20 years (n=1) or for their entire life (n=1).

Respondents were then asked whether they were ever tenants of the Cork County Council or any other local authority.

Figure 22: Previous Local Authority Tenancies – Cork Co. Co and Other (n=*)



**Q1: A total of 12 respondents provided feedback; *Q2: A total of 10 respondents provided feedback*

Figure 22 shows that in relation to the first questions, 66.7% of respondents (n=8) had in fact lived on either a site or in a house owned by Cork County Council. The remaining 33.3% (n=4) of respondents had not. Ten respondents answered the second question regarding previous residencies on another local authority's site or house. A total of 20% of respondents (n=2) indicated that they had lived on a site or in a house owned by another local authority.

Respondents were then asked whether they had applied to Cork County Council for accommodation.

Overall, 11 respondents provided feedback and indicated they have applied to Cork County Council for accommodation. No respondents indicated that they had applied to an alternative County Council for accommodation.

Following on from this, respondents were then asked to indicate the time at which they submitted their application.

Figure 23: Time of Accommodation Application to Cork Co. Co (n=8)

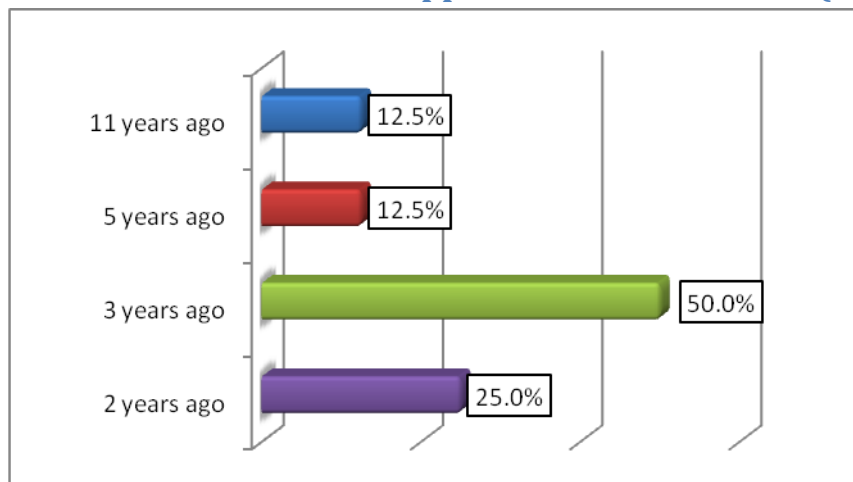


Figure 23 shows that 4 respondents applied 3 years ago (50%), with 2 other respondents making applications 2 years ago. The remaining respondents had done so 11 years ago and 5 years ago respectively (n=1).

Section 6: Come and Go Sites

Respondents were asked to indicate where in Cork they would like to see a come and go site located.

Table 4: Preferred Location for Come and Go site by Division (n=*)

Come and Go Site Location	Frequency
<i>North Cork respondents</i>	n=55
Cork City area	2
North Cork	3
Develop spring time site - Cork City	1
<i>"Do not want one"</i>	2
Not in favour/ Not a good idea	11
Yes/ Good idea/ <i>"If properly managed it would be a good idea"</i>	1
<i>"Necessary to allow Travellers to maintain travelling tradition"</i>	1
No	2
No experience/ No opinion	24
<i>"Would prefer housing"</i>	5
Outskirts of City	1
Yes	1
<i>South Cork respondents</i>	n=15
Any area with space	1
South Cork	2
<i>"I feel there could be a need for a transient site. Personally I would not use one."</i>	1
<i>"In the country not the city. A few small ones as opposed to a large one."</i>	1
Near to city but on its own	1
Not in favour of these type of sites	4
Don't know/ No opinion/ Not applicable	5
<i>West Cork respondents</i>	n=1
Outside of a town in West Cork	1

**Representative of multiple opinions provided by respondents on the subject matter*

Table 6 shows that there were a large number of responses to this question from respondents, particularly from the North Cork area (n=55), followed by South cork (n=15) and West Cork (n=1). The number of preferences can be seen in the above table but in some cases, locations are not mentioned but instead respondents expressed their opinion as to whether or not they felt it was a good idea. Overall, the majority of respondents indicated that they were not in favour of it.

Respondents were then asked to indicate their preferred size for a come and go site.

Figure 24: Preferred Size for Come and Go Site (n=15)

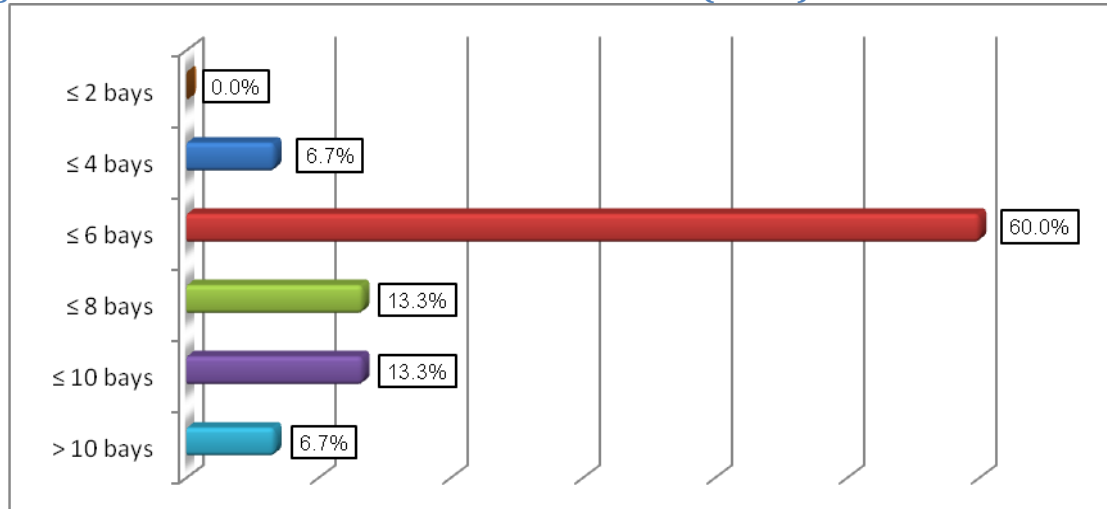


Figure 24 indicates that the majority of respondents would like to see a come and go site with ≤ 6 bays (60%). This was followed by an equal number of respondents indicating there should be a site with ≤ 8 bays or ≤ 10 bays (13.3% respectively). Those who felt that a smaller site would be preferable ≤ 4 bays accounted for 6.7%, as did those which felt there should be a site with > 10 bays (6.7%).

Respondents were then asked to indicate their opinion as to what they felt would be the appropriate period of time for people to remain on a come and go site.

Figure 25: Preferred Period of Time to Remain on a Come and Go Site (n=8)

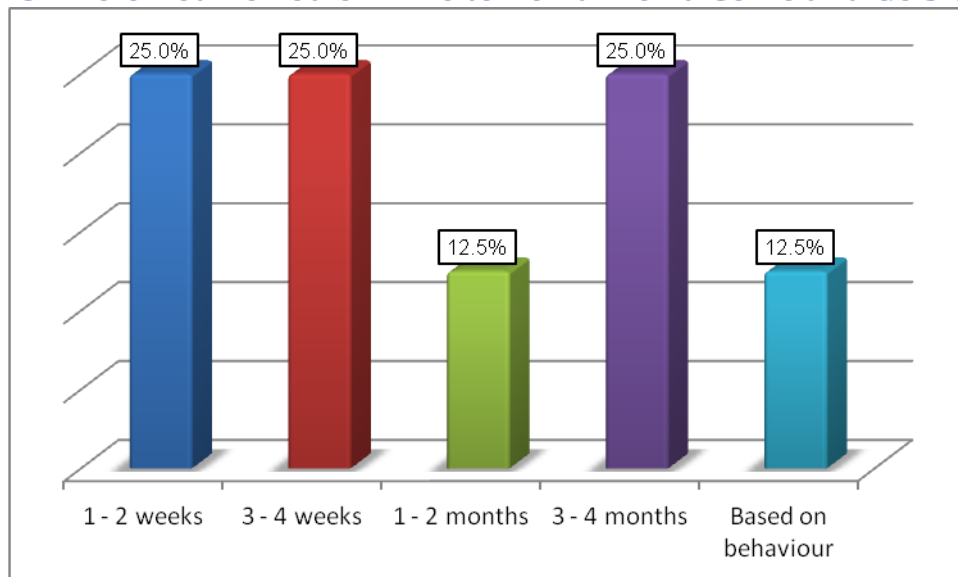


Figure 25 shows that an equal number of respondents believed that people should be able to remain on a come and go site for between 1 and 2 weeks (25%), 3 and 4 weeks (25%), or 3-4 months

(25%). This was followed by those who indicated that they felt the most appropriate period of time was between 1-2 months (12.5%); or alternatively be left up to the individuals themselves but based on behaviour (12.5%).

Respondents were then asked to indicate what facilities they felt should be available on a come and go site.

Table 5: Desired Come and Go Site Facilities (n=*)

Come and Go Site Facilities	n-value
Electricity	17
Showers	16
Storage	6
Skip	15
Play Area	10
<i>Total</i>	<i>64</i>

**Multiple responses were recorded based on the availability of multiple options for selection.*

Table 7 shows that a total of 64 respondents commented on this area. In 5 cases, respondents referred to all of the above facilities. For ease of analysis, these figures have been aggregated with the other responses. Findings show that all 17 respondents referred to a desire for electricity, with 16 selecting shower facilities. A slightly lower number referred to their desire for a skip (n=15) and also a play area (n=10). A total of 6 respondents referred to their desire for storage facilities to be made available. No reference was made to the requirement for other facilities.

Respondents were asked to estimate what would be a fair amount to pay to rent a bay.

Figure 26: Hypothetical Charge for Transient Bay Rental (n=18)

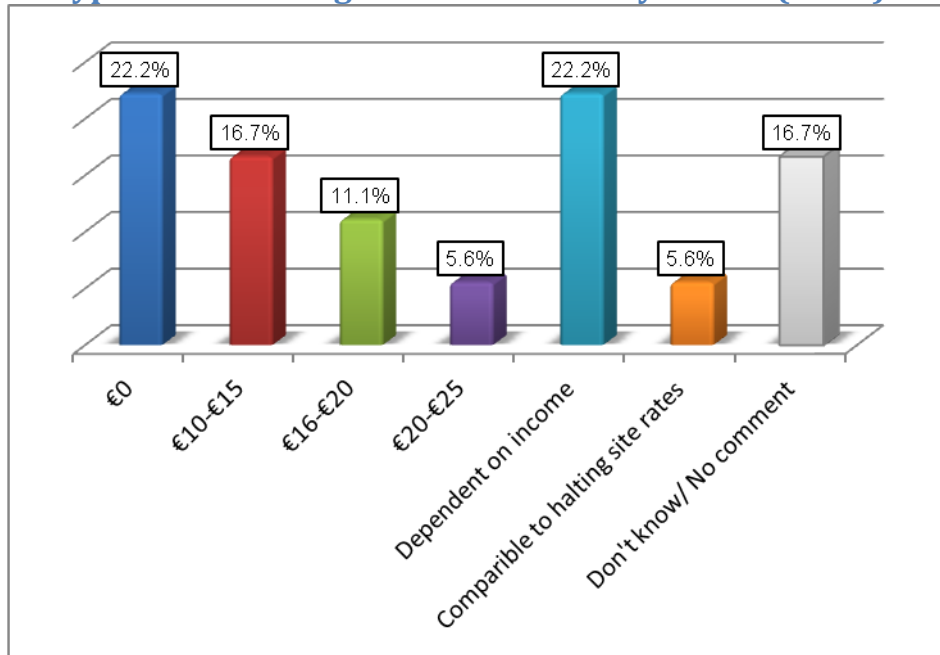


Figure 26 indicates that an equal number of respondents (22.2%) felt that no rent or a payment of rent dependent on income would be fair. A further 16.7% of respondents indicated that a rent of between €10 and €15 would be fair, followed by those which indicated a rate of €16 - €20 (11.1%) would be appropriate. A smaller number of respondents indicated that a higher rate of €20 - €25 should be charged. Overall, 16.7% of participants indicated they had no comment in relation to this or were unsure.

Respondents were given the opportunity to express any other ideas regarding come and go sites.

Table 6: Feedback regarding Come and Go Sites (n=16*)

Overall Opinion	%	Frequency
No interest in using them	29.4%	5
Not in favour	23.5%	4
No opinion	23.5%	4
In favour	23.5%	4
<i>Total</i>	100%	17

**More than one opinion was expressed by respondents in some cases.*

Table 8 shows that the overall majority either had no personal interest in using come and go sites (29.4%), or were not in favour of them (23.5%). Altogether, 4 respondents indicated they were in favour of come and go sites, with an equal number of respondents stating they had no opinion on the matter.

Table 7: Other Ideas regarding Come and Go Sites (n=10)

Overall Opinion	Frequency
Make sure it doesn't attract trouble makers/ Feuding	4
Serviced sites should be provided for transient families/ visitors	2
Privacy concerns	2
Should be family specific preferably	1
Strict rules about stay length	1

Table 9 shows that all ideas regarding come and go sites related to rules and recommendations for the site. The most prevalent ones related to avoiding the presence or attraction of trouble makers to the site (n=4), as well as providing serviced sites for traveling families and visitors (n=2 respectively). Privacy concerns were noted by 2 respondents, with issues regarding the length of stay (n=1) and aiming to keep the sites family specific (n=1) also being highlighted.

Section 7: Future Generation Accommodation Needs

This section is particularly important to Cork County Council as the data obtained will help them plan for the future accommodation needs of the travelling community. To allow them to do so, a number of questions were put to parents regarding the types of accommodation that in their view their children now aged 14 or over will need over the next 4 years and into the future.

Figure 27: Future Accommodation Requirements for children coming of age (n=23)

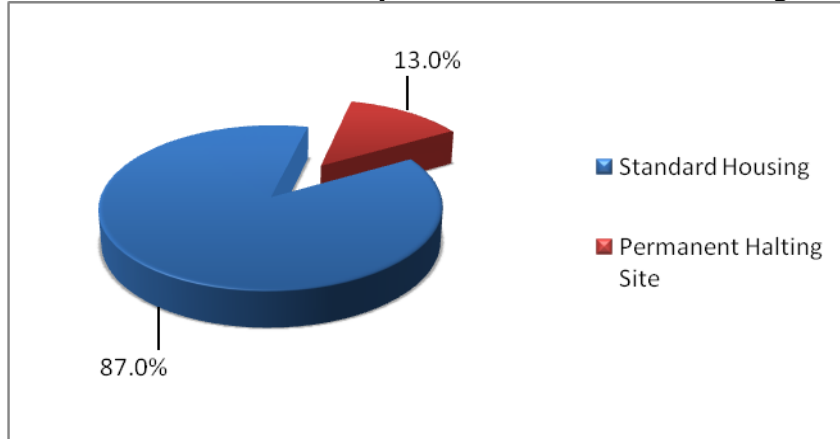
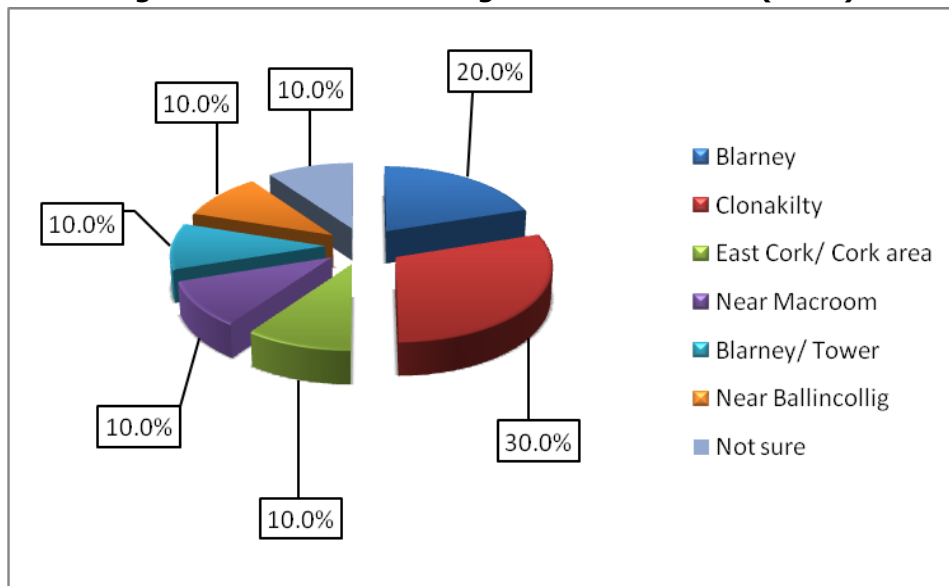


Figure 27 shows that 87% of respondents estimated that their children would require a standard house when an accommodation need would arise. A much smaller percentage (13%) indicated that they would anticipate the need for a permanent halting site.

Figure 28: Standard Housing Area of Preference (n=10)

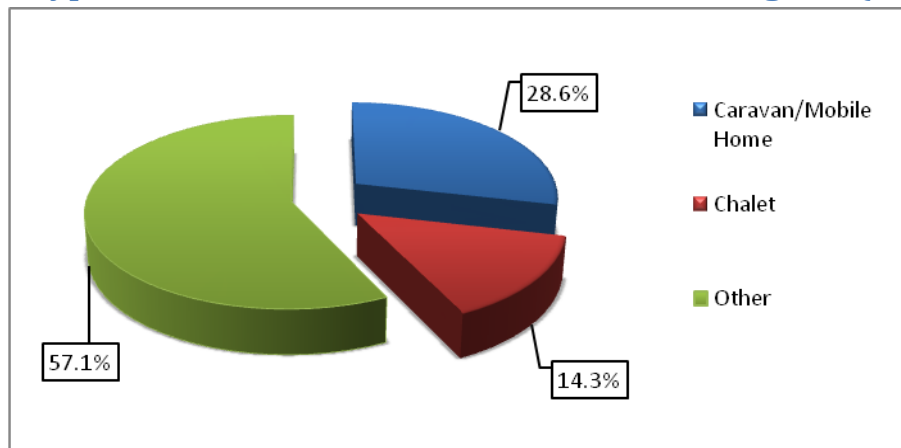


A total of 10 respondents indicated where they felt standard housing would be required in the future. Figure 28 indicates that Clonakilty (30%) and Blarney (20%) were the most popular areas noted by

respondents. The remaining areas of note included East Cork/ Cork area, Macroom and areas close-by, as well as the areas of Blarney and Tower, each receiving 10% of responses. A further 10% were unsure where would be most suitable.

Respondents who indicated that they anticipated the need for a halting site for their children coming of age were asked to indicate the preferred type of accommodation on such as halting site.

Figure 29: Type of Accommodation Desired within Halting Site (n=7)



A total of 7 respondents indicated there was a need for this type of accommodation. Figure 29 shows that 28.6% of respondents felt that caravan(s)/ mobile home(s) would be preferable, whereas 14.3% of respondents expressed a preference for a chalet for their children coming of age. An additional group of respondents indicated a requirement of other accommodation (57.1%).

Respondents who indicated that they anticipated the need for a different type of housing for their children coming of age were also asked to indicate the preferred type of accommodation. The following is an overview of their responses.

- ❖ Bungalow type accommodation (with disabled access)
- ❖ Standalone Housing
- ❖ A rural house

Although not examined under this section in the questionnaire, the data in relation to horse ownership has been included in this section as responses were received from all families.

Table 8: Horse Ownership

Horses	%	n-value
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<i>Do you own Horses?</i>		
Yes	15.9%	11
No	84.1%	58
Total		69
<i>How many horses do you own?</i>		
1 Horse	44.4%	4
2 Horses	44.4%	4
3 Horses	11.1%	1
Total		9
<i>Where are they kept?</i>		
A friend is keeping the horse for us	10.0%	1
At home	10.0%	1
West Cork	30.0%	3
North Cork	10.0%	1
South Cork	10.0%	1
Leased land from family friend and neighbour	10.0%	1
On site	10.0%	1
Rental grazing in famer's field close by.	10.0.0%	1
Total		10

Table 10 shows that 15.9% of respondents own horses. Of those who own horses, 44.4% of them own 1 horse, with a further 44.4% owning 2 horses; 11.1% of respondents own 3 horses. With regards to where horses are being kept, responses provided a broad range of feedback; some respondents identified particular locations, whereas other respondents noted that horses were being kept on lands either at their home place, at a friend's, or alternatively land had been leased specifically for the purpose.

Conclusion

The main results of this research can be summarised as follows:

- The majority of primary respondents were female (53.5%), single (45.8%), and were less than 25 years of age (28.1%).
- The majority of respondents living at home were male (53.5%), aged between 0-3 years old (22.3%), and born in Cork (78.6%).
- A total of 32 respondents had no previous tenancies, 24 respondents had 1 previous tenancy with a further 6.3% (n=5) indicating that they were either undertaking their first tenancy, were living at home, or had 3 previous tenancies. The most common type of accommodation of respondent families was privately rented properties (52%). A total of 22.4% were residing in council tenancies. A further 9.2% of respondent families indicated they were transient/roadside families, or sharing with family or friends. Additionally, 5.1% stated they are resident on a halting site, with a further 1% indicating that they were either homeless or in privately owned premises. The accommodation type desired by most was a standard house (65.9%). A total of 2 respondents stated they applied to Cork County Council for a transfer. A 4 bedroom house was the most popular choice for those wishing to transfer from their current accommodation. With regard to pending housing applications, a standard house was most preferred (91.9%), with a specific preference for a 3 bed house (67.2%).
- A minority of settled families indicated that they go on the road for a period of time.
- Of the total number of respondents who come under the transient/roadside category (7.1% n=10), the length of time at their current location varies from 6 to 20 years.
- The preferred location for a come and go site varied according to the division the respondent resided in; however overall feedback indicated that the majority of respondents were not in favour.
- In terms of future accommodation needs, the majority of respondents indicated that their children would have a preference to reside in a standard house. For those who indicated that their children would most likely require a halting site, the preferred type of accommodation here was caravan/ mobile home accommodation.
- The main issues of concern to the travelling community who participated in this research included:
 - Opinion that Travellers are misjudged and treated unfairly
 - Issues with accommodation provision
 - Issues with accommodation, specifically relating to animal maintenance
 - Issues with waiting times for accommodation

These results of this research will assist Cork County Council in formulating their Traveller accommodation programme in a manner that meets the needs of the travelling community residing in

the county. The research findings will prove particularly beneficial in terms of allowing the local authority to allocate resources and work with an accurate reflection of the reality on the ground. It will provide Cork County Council with a wealth of information that will give them a much deeper insight into the communities they are working with.

The cooperation between the Local Authority and the Marketing Centre at UL was crucial to the success of this research due to the division of various sections of the research and the shared responsibilities of both bodies.

A key output of this research was to assist with forward planning in terms of accommodation requirements. In particular, an objective of this research was to assist the local authority in terms of the projected future need in terms of young Travellers coming of age during the life time of the programme. Specifically the local authority sought to clarify the expressed accommodation preferences of these young people and assess accommodation need and type within each division. The information obtained during the course of this research will assist the local authority in terms of assessing projected need and planning for the future.

Finally, in keeping with Cork County Councils commitment to consultation with key stakeholders and making the creation of the programme an inclusive process, the findings of this research will be presented to Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees. The information obtained during the course of this research will greatly facilitate the members of this group in progressing the formulation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme. It is recommended that the local authority continue to engage in research in the future so that it will equip them with relevant information which will help in the formulation of broad policy areas as well as specific programme requirements.

Appendix 3

– Copy of Questionnaire

**September 2013 - Travelling Community
Accommodation Survey
Cork County Council Area**

1. ADDRESS: _____

2. HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Married</u> _____	<u>D.O.B</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Health</u>
		<u>Single</u> _____			
		<u>Widow/er</u> _____			
		<u>Separated</u> _____			

3. SPOUSE/PARTNER

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Married</u> _____	<u>D.O.B</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Health</u>
		<u>Single</u> _____			
		<u>Widow/er</u> _____			
		<u>Seperated</u> _____			

NOTE: All information contained in this survey will only be used by the Cork County Council Directorate of Housing and Community to inform policy and practice in addressing the accommodation needs of Travellers.

4. HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Name	Sex M/F	D.o.B /age	Place of Birth	Name of School (if attending school)/Location	Status: Single Married Separated	Any medical issues which could impact upon accommodation
a)						
b)						

c)						
d)						
f)						
g)						
h)						

5. Previous Tenancies

How many previous tenancies have you had?

Reasons for leaving?

NOTE: All information contained in this survey will only be used by the Cork County Council Directorate of Housing and Community to inform policy and practice in addressing the accommodation needs of Travellers.

6. Accommodation – current

Type of Accommodation – Please choose one:

Council tenancy

Description:

Private Rented Tenancy

Description:

Halting Site

Description: _____ **No. of families in**

bay No. of caravans in bay

Transient/Roadside

Yard	Roadside
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Description _____

[] **Other** (i.e RAS, Leasing, Voluntary Housing Body):

NOTE: All information contained in this survey will only be used by the Cork County Council Directorate of Housing and Community to inform policy and practice in addressing the accommodation needs of Travellers.

7. ACCOMMODATION – Desired

Please identify the type of accommodation you would prefer:

Flat: [] **Specify Area Desired** _____

Or

Standard House in Cork County Council Estate: [] **Specify Area Desired** _____

Or

Bungalow (stand alone) [] **Specify Area Desired**

Or

Traveller Specific Accommodation []

Halting Site:

Chalet	Mobile	Area Desired:
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Or

Group Housing:

Size:	Group:	Area Desired:
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Or

Transient/Come and Go Site :

Size:	Area Desired:
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8. Have you applied to Cork County Council for?

a. (If you are a tenant)

Transfer _____ To: (type of house) _____ Size _____ Location _____
_____ Halting Site: _____ Group Housing: _____

b. (If an applicant)

Standard Housing _____ Type (size) _____ Location _____

Halting Site _____ Location _____

Group Housing _____ Location _____

Settled Families – Travelling

9. Do you go on the road for a period of time? Yes _____ No _____

10. When _____

12. How Long

11. Where

ROADSIDE FAMILIES

12. How long have you been at your present location?

13. How long have you been in the Cork County Council area?

14. Did you ever live on Cork County Council site or house? Yes _____ No _____ 20a.
Or any other Council's site or housing? Yes _____ No _____

15. If Yes to question 20 or 20 (A), where did you live?

16 (a). For how long did you live there _____

17. Why did you leave that accommodation?

18. When did you leave the above mentioned accommodation

19. Have you applied to Cork County Council for accommodation?

_____ 24a. When _____

20. Have you applied to any other Council for accommodation? _____ Where?

_____ When? _____

Horses

21. Do you own horses? Yes _____ No _____ 26a. If yes, how many?

22. Where do you normally keep them?

Come and Go Site (Transient)

23. Where would you locate a Come and Go Site in Cork?

24. How big should it be? _____

25. How long should a person be permitted to stay on the site?

26. What facilities should it have? a. Electricity _____ b. Showers _____ c.
Storage _____ d. Skip _____ e. Play area _____

27. How much should the rent be? _____

28. Have you any other ideas regarding Transient/Come and Go Sites?

Future Generation Accommodation Needs

29. What Types of Accommodation will your children now aged 14 or over need over the next 4 years and into the future?

a. Standard Housing _____ Area _____

b. Group Housing _____ Area _____

c. Halting Site: Permanent H.S. _____ Transient/Come and Go Site _____
Area _____

d. Other _____

30. If a halting site, which type of accommodation would they prefer on site?

Caravan/Mobile Home _____ Chalet _____
Other(specify) _____

31. Any other comments:

Thank you for participating in Cork County Council's Traveller Accommodation Survey

Name/Signatures of Respondents:

Name of Surveyor:

Date Completed:

NOTE: All information contained in this survey will only be used by the Cork County Council Directorate of Housing and Community to inform policy and practice in addressing the accommodation needs of Travellers.